Information Booklet

Schedule of Events & More!

66TH ANNUAL NATIONAL

ROOSTER CROW

& CAR SHOW

JUNE 28 • 29 • 30 2019 ROGUE RIVER • OREGON

Booklet sponsored by the Rogue River Kiwanis Club

Welcome to Rooster Crow 2019!

On behalf of the Kiwanis Club of Rogue River, welcome to the annual National Rooster Crow weekend — the 66th such event carrying on the community tradition of wonderful, family-focused fun with all sorts of activities, a multitude of vendors and eats, boat races, the Classic Car Show (on Sunday), and of course, the main Saturday event: the laugh-filled Human Crow and real deal Rooster Crow contests.

We thank the many volunteers from the city and nearby area who have worked together to present a wide variety of activities for your enjoyment. We'd also like to acknowledge the many local businesses and civic organizations that have supported the publication of this booklet from which its advertising proceeds allow your Kiwanis Club to continue to serve the youth of Rogue River, Evans Valley, and Wimer. Please patronize these folks whenever possible.

Their advertising allows us to:

•Offer scholarships for deserving Rogue River High School graduating seniors.

•Recognize Rogue River Jr./Sr. High School and River's Edge Academy Students of the Month.

•Provide a safe house on Halloween at the Live Oak Grange House with games and snacks.

•Hold the popular community Easter Egg Hunt at Beck Field on the Saturday before Easter.

•And so much more!

If you are a community-focused, good-hearted, and fun-loving person, please consider joining us in our efforts. Members of the club will be at the Crow events all weekend, especially at our Kiwanis trailer selling soft serve ice cream and drinks. Stop by and say, "Hi." We'd enjoy meeting you.

Have a terrific weekend!

Kailin Honea
President, 2019
Rogue River Kiwanis Club
P.O. Box 35 • Rogue River • 97537

THE ROGUE RIVER KIWANIS CLUB

Serving the Children of our Community

Rogue River Kiwanis Club meets Wednesdays at the Live Oak Grange:

- **The first Wednesday of the month at 6:00 PM for dinner**
- **Every subsequent Wednesday at 12:30 PM for lunch**

Come and Join Us!

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Rogue Valley Classic Cruisers
Rogue Valley Street Rods
Woodville Museum
Woodville Shopping Center

Rogue River's Been Crowing Since 1953

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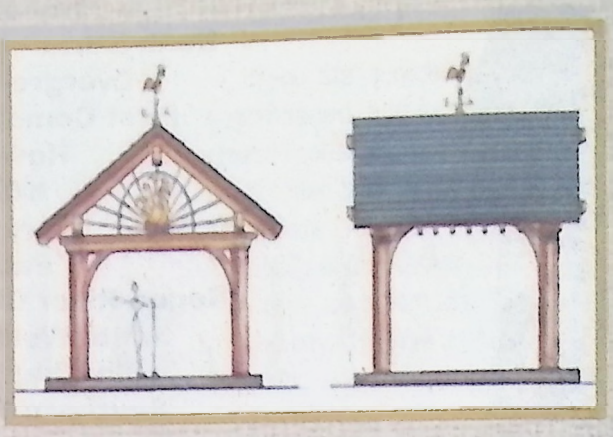

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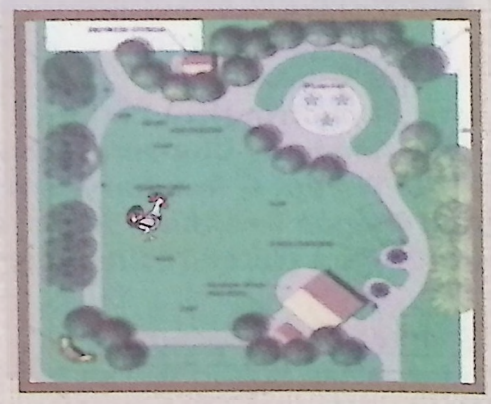
"66 Years And Still Crowing"

The Mayor and City Council are happy to announce that they are prepared to present another application to the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department for funding assistance for the Park at the corner of First and Pine Streets *"Rooster Park"*



Incorporated in the "Rooster Park" Master Plan are a children's water feature, covered pavilion, restrooms, game tables with benches, exercise stations for walkers and runners, new trees and landscaping – this is going to be a park that citizens of all ages will be able to use and enjoy for many years to come!

City of Rogue River

133 Broadway - Box 1137 - Rogue River - Oregon - 97537-1137 - (541) 582-4401

www.cityofrogueriver.org

OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

2019 Rooster Crow Grand Marshal: Pam VanArsdale

Brian Mortensen
Rogue River Press

VANARSDALE FOUND RIGHT PLACE, AT THE RIGHT TIME

Sometimes life is about being in the right place at the right time.

Several events in Pam VanArsdale's life could fit that description, from her moving to Rogue River a couple decades ago, becoming a real estate agent, to public service in the City of Rogue River.

It could also include her being named the Grand Marshal of the 2019 Rooster Crow Parade.

"I was out in my yard, and I was asked if I was going to be around for Rooster Crow," she said.

She thought she was going to be asked to volunteer on some committee.

"I said, 'Well, yeah, I'm going to help judge the parade Saturday morning', and I said, 'Why? What did you need,' she said.

The voice on the other end of the line told her she wanted to be the first to to tell VanArsdale that she was unanimously chosen to be the grand marshal of the parade.

VanArsdale, 64, has been a fixture in the Rogue River community since she moved here in 1998 from the tiny and remote community of Ruth in Trinity County, Calif. Originally from Chicago, she began as a bartender, but took real estate classes and became an agent.

About eight years after she moved to the area, she was encouraged to join the Rogue River Planning Commission. She also served on the city's budget committee before she ran for a spot on the city council as a write-in candidate in 2008. The highest vote-getter out of three candidates eligible to run, she remained on the council until she was appointed mayor in February, 2013.

She was able to keep the mayor's chair through two elections, in 2014 and 2016.

Pam VanArsdale

VanArsdale came to Rogue River because she and a couple friends were visiting a daughter who lived in the area.

"There's a beautiful lake called Ruth Lake, and that's what I did," she said. "I worked at the resort across the street from the marina."

"We came to visit her, and we were like, 'This is the coolest little town,'" she said.

It just happened that the resort at Ruth Lake was about to be sold, and she said, "It was just this big combination of maybe now's a good time to make a change."

She and her friends moved to Rogue River, renting a house on Gardner Street.

"We wanted to be in a town but we didn't want to be in a city," she said. "We'd all lived

see VANARSDALE on page 11

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, JUNE 28:

1 **10:00 am - 4:00 pm**
Rogue River Friends of the Library Book Sale
412 East Main Street

2 **5:00 pm - 6:00 pm**
66h Annual Rooster Crow Kick-Off Dinner
at the Rogue River Community Center - 133 Broadway
Sponsored by the Rogue River Rooster Crow Committee

5 **6:00 pm – 8:00 pm**
Live Entertainment performed by
Las Vegas Entertainer Mr. J D Barron
Woodville Museum Bandstand

SATURDAY, JUNE 29:

1 **10:00 am - 4:00 pm**
Rogue River Friends of the Library Book Sale
412 East Main Street

4 **9:00 am - 5:00 pm**
Vendor Booths - Commercial and Non-Profit
First and Pine Streets

5 **9:00 am - 4:00 pm**
Art Show
Shirley Bell and the Brush Stroker's
Woodville Museum

6 **10:00 am**
Rooster Crow Parade
Line up at the Woodville Shopping Center
Lineup begins at 8:00 am

5 **11:00 am - 2:00 pm**
Live Entertainment performed by
"Don West Band"
Woodville Museum Bandstand

7 **12:00 pm**
Cal-Ore River Racers Hydroplane Time Trials
John F. Fleming Memorial Park and Coyote Evans Wayside-
Dee's Landing Boad Ramp off of RR Hwy.
A Show N Shine and Rain Gutter Regatta will then follow in the Rooster Crow Arena

8 **12:00 pm - 3:00 pm**
Rogue River Fire Department
Water Ball Competition &
Vehicle Extrication Demonstration
Rogue River Elementary School - East Grounds

10 **12:00 pm**
Rooster Crow Registration Begins
Rooster Crow Arena

10 **2:15 pm**
Human Rooster Crow Contest
Rooster Crow Arena

10

2:45 pm
66th Annual
National Rooster Crowing Contest
Rooster Crow Arena

5 **3:30 pm - 6:30 pm**
Live Entertainment performed by
"Midnight Express Players"
Woodville Museum Bandstand

SUNDAY, JUNE 30:

3 **7:00 am - 2:00 pm**
Rogue River National Rooster Crow
Car Show
Pine Street

4 **9:00 am - 5:00 pm**
Vendor Booths - Commercial and Non-Profit
First and Pine Streets

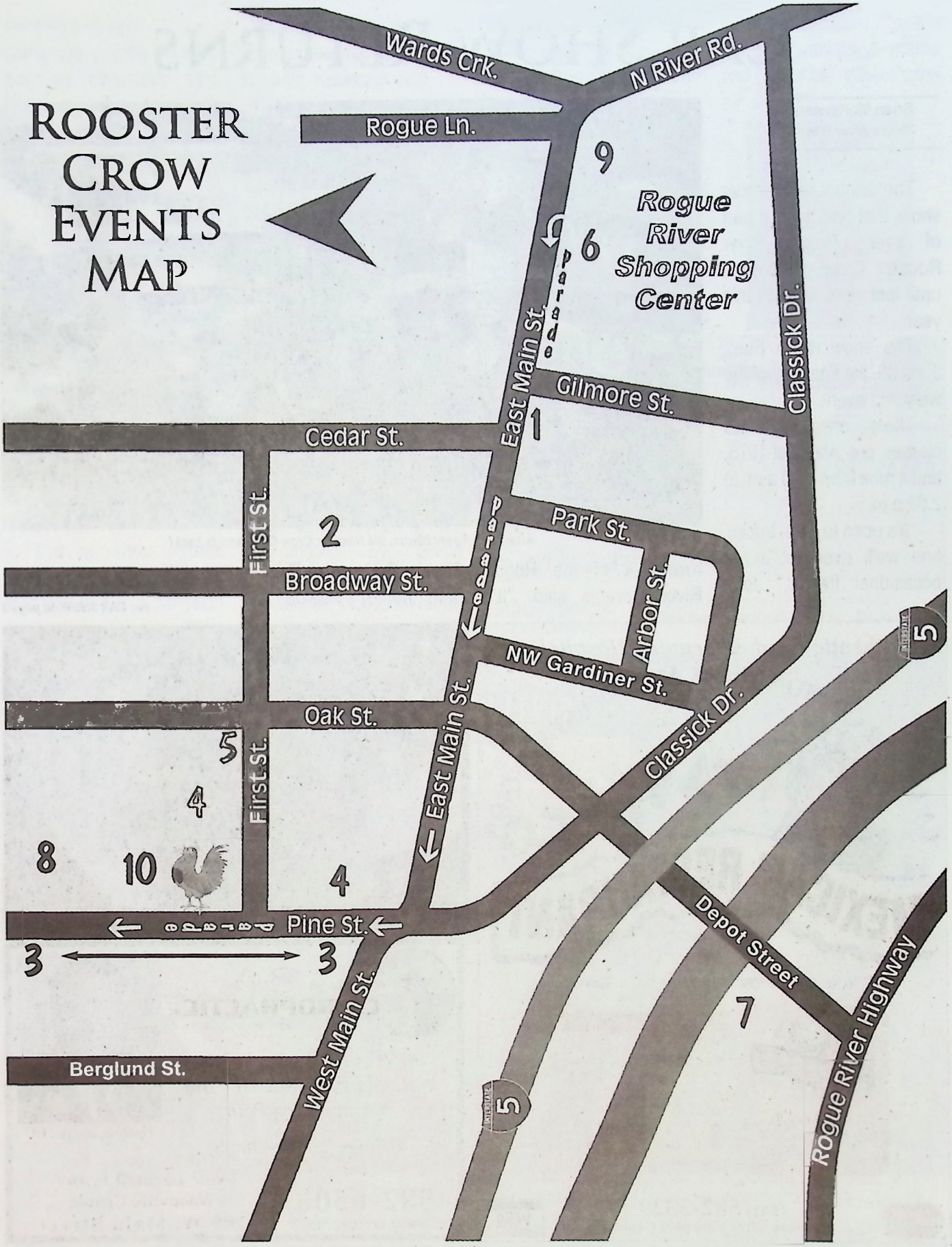
10 **10:00 am**
"Church at the Crow"
Officiated by Pastor Rodger Coale
with the Pleasant Valley Cowboy Church

10 **11:00 am - 2:00 pm**
Live Entertainment performed by
"State of Jefferson Vigilance Committee"
Comedic, Old West Reenactment Skit Theatre Group
Woodville Museum Bandstand

7 **12:00 pm**
Cal-Ore River Racers Hydroplane Race
John F. Fleming Memorial Park and Coyote Evans Wayside-
Dee's Landing Boad Ramp off of RR Hwy.

10 **FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES:**
All weekend: Games, Storytellers, Face Painting, recreation by the Society for Creative Anachronism showcasing the arts and skills of pre-17th-Century Europe at the Rooster Crow Arena

Rooster Crow Events Map



CAR SHOW RETURNS

Brian Mortensen
Rogue River Press

After a brief year hiatus, the Rooster Crow Car Show is back!

The annual antique car show, that had been a part of every Rogue River Rooster Crow celebration until last year, is back this year.

The show is on Sun., June 30, the final day of the weekend event.

There are only two classes, pre- and post-1975, and it runs from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

"It's open to cars, trucks, and we'll even let in an occasional tractor," John Krawczyk of the Rogue River Kiwanis said. "It's Rooster Crow, so we like the farm (theme) a little bit."

Many of the cars will

see CAR SHOW on page 9

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CAR SHOW from page 8

come from outside the area, but, as Krawczyk said, "there are a lot of car buffs in the area."

The entry fee is $25 per entry.

The show will cause a little bit of a traffic diversion. Pine Street, which becomes East Evans Creek Road, will be closed during the car show. Traffic will be diverted to West Main Street at the four-way stop, and north on Berglund Street, between Beck Field and Rogue River Elementary School, returning to Pine Street via Fourth Street.

The car show returns after a one-year absence that was due to a transition from the Rogue River Chamber of Commerce running the weekend to the Kiwanis, Krawczyk said.

"Last year, the Rooster Crow got reorganized," Krawczyk said. "The Chamber got out of it, and they're the ones that did the car show. This was the Kiwanis's first time at running everything, and we'd never run a car show, so part of it was not having the manpower and not having the knowledge, for sure."

A separately created Rooster Crow committee includes supporters from all over the community. It's coordinated by Shelli Spencer. Carol Weir coordinates the booth rental in the Rooster Crow midway.

The committee also includes Ron Smith of Smith Welding and Fabrication, which is coordinating the car show.

The Rooster Crow committee is looking for new members and new ideas.

"It's always good to get other people('s input)," Krawczyk said. "We didn't know (the demand) for the car show until people came and asked us, 'Where's the car show?"

Crowing 66 Years and Counting

Rooster Crow circa 1954.

Rogue River's famed Rooster Crow Contest started in 1953 as a clever, some say silly, way to let folks know that Rogue River is a town, not just a river.

Shade Coombs, inspired by the tale of Welsh coal miners who staged colorful rooster crowing contests during their holidays, shared the idea with fellow merchants interested in generating a little publicity and self-promotion.

Coombs's proposition was accepted by the Rogue River Booster Club and funds were set aside for a cash prize for the owner of the rooster that crowed the most within a 30-minute period.

The first contest was held May 23, 1953. There were 75 roosters perched and ready to let loose when Chief of Police William Peters fired the opening gun at 10 a.m. The caged cocks were free to crow for half an hour. Hollerin' Harry crowed 71 times and earned his owner $50.

Now, $50 was a sizable sum, considering that in 1953, gas was 25 cents a gallon as were a loaf of bread and a gallon of milk. And, coffee was a mere 50 cents a pound.

Interstate 5 had yet to be built, but still more than 500 people traveled to the tiny hamlet of Rogue River to witness the contest held at City Park.

The contest continued to

see 66 YEARS page 15

VANARSDALE from page 5

rural for so long, but we were tired of traveling two hours just to find a freeway, and so Rogue River was so perfect. The first weekend we stayed here, the people were just so nice."

VanArsdale's the only one of the three friends who ended up staying in Rogue River.

When she moved to Rogue River, she got a job as a bartender, but she was looking for a change from that, too.

"I made myself a promise. I was going to get out of the bar by the time I turned 50," she said. "I could take my real estate classes at night or when I wasn't working. I did all that on a computer, so I could still work and take my real estate classes."

The skills a bartender has aren't too dissimilar from the people skills a real estate agent has, and "I love homes. I love seeing different houses and landscaping, so the thought of being able to see all these great homes was awesome."

She attributes the late Hope Warren for challenging her to get involved, particularly in her role as a real estate dealer, in the city's planning commission in 2006. In 2008, there was a vacancy on the city council, and she said the late JoAnne Mead was the one who encouraged her the most to go for the seat.

She won as a write-in candidate.

"I put a lot of signs down because with the name VanArsdale, I figured people needed to see how to spell my name, because (the votes) wouldn't have counted if it'd just said, 'Pam the Realtor'," she said.

Her being appointed to mayor, a little more than four years later.

"That was, again, another one of those situations where I had the time and the ability to do it," she said. "I love being mayor. The reason why is it was such a joy to represent the city.... We've had our struggles, of course, but compared to other cities, Rogue River's just a unique small town."

"Rogue River hasn't changed a whole lot. If anything, it's gotten better. Businesses come and go, but they didn't really change their business model too much. You can still go down and get a yard of fabric or a gift for somebody, and that's how it always was. It really hasn't changed greatly in 21 years. It's kind of one of the things I like most about it, and a lot of other people do, too."

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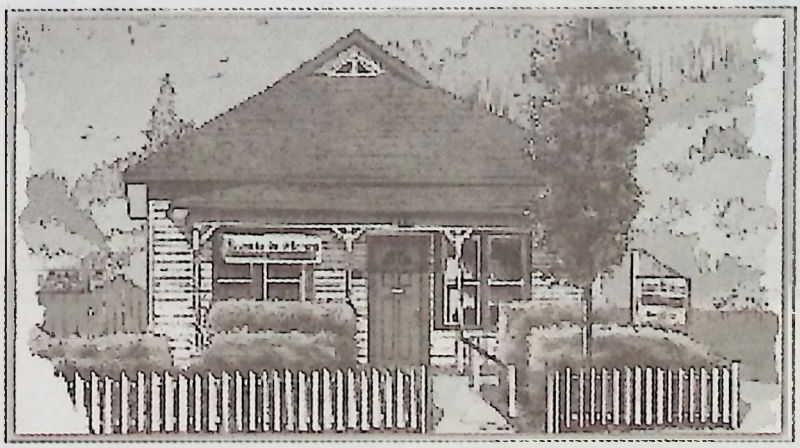

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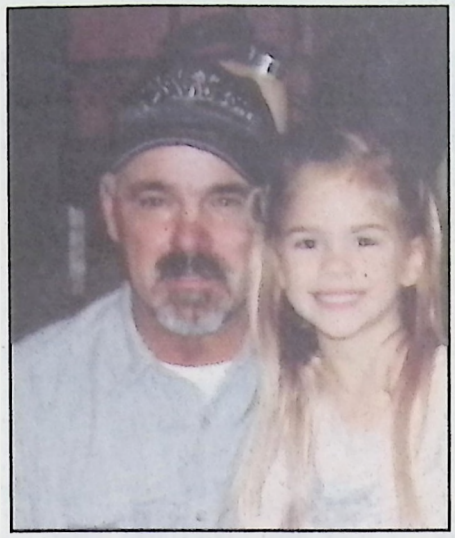
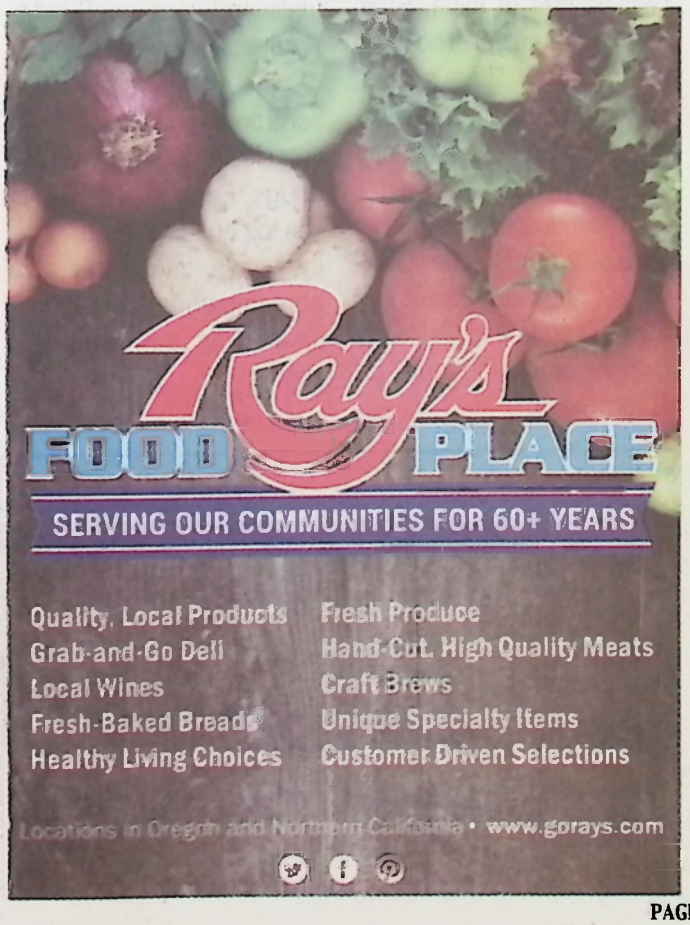
National Rooster Crow Grand Marshals



2018 Rooster Crow Grand Marshal Dennis Artoff with granddaughter, Parker Mockridge.

1978 Anna Classick
1979 Carl "Bud" Dick
1980 Shade Combs
1981 Dennis Hitch
1982 Glen Wooldridge
1983 Jim & Lottie Martin
1984 Carl "Bud" Magerle
1984 May Ellis
1985 Mabel Rigel
1986 Hugh Hartman
1987 Georgia & Carl Lane
1988 Jeanette Umscheid
1989 Walter Dennis
1990 Royal Deland
1991 Jim & Lottie Martin
1992 Gary Chittum
1992 Sally Holiday
1993 Colista Moore
1994 Dick Skevington
1995 Roy Milton
1996 Jim Craig
1997 Dorothy Finney
1998 Dick Handbury
1999 Dave Thomas
2000 Dale Hatch
2001 Bob Kirkwood
2002 Fred Boettcher
2003 Bob Gail
2004 Nancy Bradley
2005 Charlie Weaver
2006 John & Treeva Schaeffer
2007 Hope Warren's Family
2008 Tom Artoff
2009 Ellen & Ralph Campbell
2010 Nick Niquette
2011 Wanda Nesbit
2012 Neathamer Family
2013 John Bond
2014 Sam & Marilyn Evensizer
2015 Larry Wills
2016 Alice Hatch
2017 Lawrence Martin
2018 Dennis Artoff
2019 Pam VanArsdale

2020 ??????



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River Racers Return to Rooster Crow

Jesse Reinhart, No. 17, top, and Jeff Lewis, 007, both of Grants Pass, prepared to take off from the launch spot west of Rogue River during the 2016 Rooster Crow Hydroplane Race.

Brian Mortensen
Rogue River Press

The Cal-Ore River Racers will make a mighty return during Rooster Crow weekend on Saturday - Sunday, June 29-30 with as many 18 racers participating in the Saturday time trials and Sunday main race.

The hydroplane racers return for this year's Rooster Crow weekend after not being able to race in 2018 because of low water levels on the Rogue River.

"The city's been great," Jay Reese, a former racer who handles media for the Cal-Ore Racers and who will announce during the time trials race, said.

"Jim Eldred, in the R-35 boat, is the race director, and he's been building a rapport, with a guy who was a broadcast partner of mine, Ryan Hess, your mayor. The city's all on board. There's never been a better partnership, along with the car show and the parade."

The title sponsors of what is called the "Rooster Crow River Chase" are Pacific Aviation, Oregon and California Supply and Taqueria La Guacamaya.

Both the Saturday time trials and race on Sunday begin at noon each day.

The time trials will be done on a short stretch on either side of the Depot Street Bridge. Fans will be able to see the boats nearly through the whole time trial stretch from underneath the bridge on the Rogue River Greenway.

see HYDROPLANES on page 24

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66 YEARS from page 10

entertain even after the final cock-a-doodle-doo. Grants Pass auctioneer Charlie Morrison auctioned off the fowl---some had gone afoul, ruffling the feathers of their coop-side handlers.

Silent Sam owned by Bill Reeder was offered first. Having lived up to his name, his owner disgustedly bid 10 cents and then watched a flurry of bidding. After high bidder Harold McKenzie paid $50, there was a rush of rooster owners hoping to cash in, but the bidding dropped rapidly.

A drizzling rain that turned to a downpour failed to dampen the spirits of the spectators or the boosters, and Medford, Grants Pass and Portland media gave the crow fest such favorable publicity, the boosters decided to hold a second contest on September 5, 1953.

According to a *Rogue River Press* article published in June 1954, organizers expected 1,500 people to attend that summer's crow fest. Instead, 2,000 folks poured into the city and witnessed Rocky knock out the competition with 79 crows.

The successful event has continued for nearly 70 years, and the 66th crowing contest will again be held on the last Saturday in June. The Rogue River Kiwanis sponsor the weekend.

In conjunction with Rogue River's centennial celebration, 100 gold coins were awarded the owner of the rooster that crowed 100 times --- a feat that hasn't been accomplished since 2005. (And, before that, the last time was in 1978.) It still hasn't happened yet.

Before all the cock-a-doodle-doo-ing begins, there is a rooster-themed parade---this year, the theme is "Let 'Em Crow."

In addition to memorabilia, roosters will appear everywhere---on T-shirts, hats, banners, aprons, shoes and flags, and in the form of rooster statues and stuffed roosters.

The late Charlie Weaver, a Kiwanian and a local Realtor, had a front row seat at the Rooster Crow every since that first one in '53.

"I remember when it was held down on Depot Street," he recalled once. "Cages lined each side of the street, and there were roosters and people up and down, all along the curbs."

He also laughed at the memory of one contest that started with a bang. The police chief was to blow a whistle at 10 a.m. to signal the start. No one heard the whistle, so he fired his pistol.

"Everyone was scared silly, the roosters too," he added.

From Depot Street, the contest moved to where the Umpqua Bank parking lot is today. For years, festivities were held at Wards Creek Park, explained Weaver.

"Well, the freeway took out the park, and that ended that," he added.

The Rogue River Lions Club took over from the Rogue River Boosters Club, and since 1993, the Kiwanis have been lead organizers with the support of the Chamber of Commerce (until 2018) and the City of Rogue River.

These days, the Rooster Crow shares the spotlight during what has become an entire weekend of activities, including one of the area's largest and best summer parades, the National Human Crow contest, a classic car show, entertainment, arts and crafts, and food.

The weekend-long festival really starts rockin' and rollin' during Saturday's parade when more than 50 floats, marching units, horses, dogs, llamas, and folks in rooster costumes head down Main Street. Hundreds of people line the streets between the Rogue River Shopping Center and Rogue River Elementary School.

"This all seemed hokey, when I moved here in 2002," said Holly Spitz, then a member of the Chamber of Commerce. "First, you ask yourself why, and then you find yourself saying why not!"

"No one can figure out why, it just is," said Weaver. "People love it. It's just a whole lot of fun."

Added Spitz: "This is small town America. This is what we do."

VFW Post 4116 & Auxiliary

410 E. Main St. Rogue River

Celebrate Rooster Crow &
Our Local Veterans
Mon-Sat Noon-8pm, Sunday Noon-6

Rogue River H.S. Class of '64 Reunion
Sat. June 29th
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Members & Guests Welcome

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SPOTLIGHT: ROGUE RIVER KIWANIS AWARDS PROGRAMS

For over a century, Kiwanis International has created opportunities for children to learn, experience, dream, grow, succeed, and thrive. Service is the heart of every local Kiwanis club and your local Rogue River Kiwanis team meets their high standards.

An example of giving local children opportunities comes in the form of fundraising for scholarships.This year's graduating seniors received $3500 in scholarships from Kiwanis. Laura Howard won the $1500 Charlie Weaver Memorial scholarship. Natalie Bjorge and Talyn Fricke both won a $1,000 scholarship.

Photo Courtesy: RRP Brian Mertens

Left to right: Natalie Bjorge, Laura Howard, & Talyn Fricke

Also, every month during the school year in partnership with their faculties and administration, the Rogue River Kiwanis Club recognizes students from each class of the Rogue River Junior/Senior High School (RRJSHS) and one high school student from the River's Edge Academy Charter school (REACH) as Students of the Month.

The counselor, from RRJSHS, receives recommendations from the teachers and then orchestrates a confidential voting from their complete staff team to determine each month's recipients.

At REACH, the nominees also may come from a wider group then just the academic

see KIWANIS on page 17

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KIWANIS from page 16

rock stars. "Those who show great improvement and strive for growth are also considered for their efforts," reports Cecile Enright, Director. "It's a wonderful program for student recognition."

The students and their guests attend one of the monthly Kiwanis lunch meetings at the Live Oak Grange Hall at which time they are individually recognized for their achievements in academic growth or excellence, school/class leadership, community service, and/or extracurricular activities. In addition to a delicious, homemade lunch prepared in the Grange kitchen, each awardee is presented with their own certificate. Additionally, their group photo and names appear in the *Rogue River Press*.

"It's a great experience to meet with these students every month and have them interact with our club," commends Kiwanis member Art Ferranti.

"There's a spark and energy that emanates from them and you can just feel they not only a real impact in their school today, but will continue to do so in their future endeavors, careers, and communities."

If you'd like to learn more about this or the other activities of the Rogue River Kiwanis, go to their Facebook page at *www.facebook.com/ rrkiwanis-club/* and send an e-mail or drop by the Live Oak Grange on Gardiner Street at noon Wednesdays.

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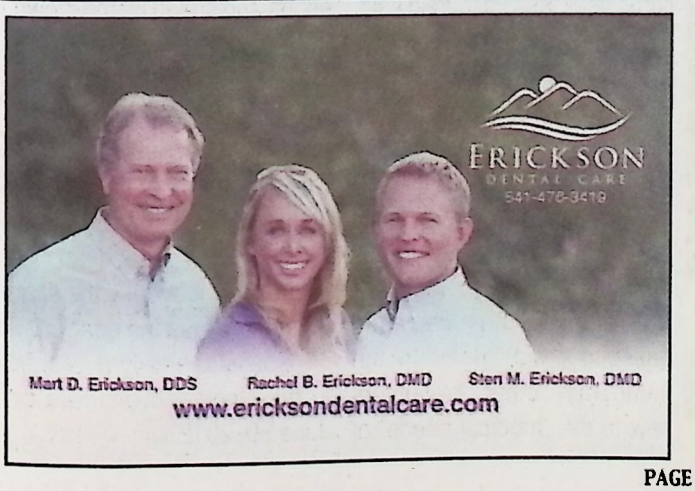

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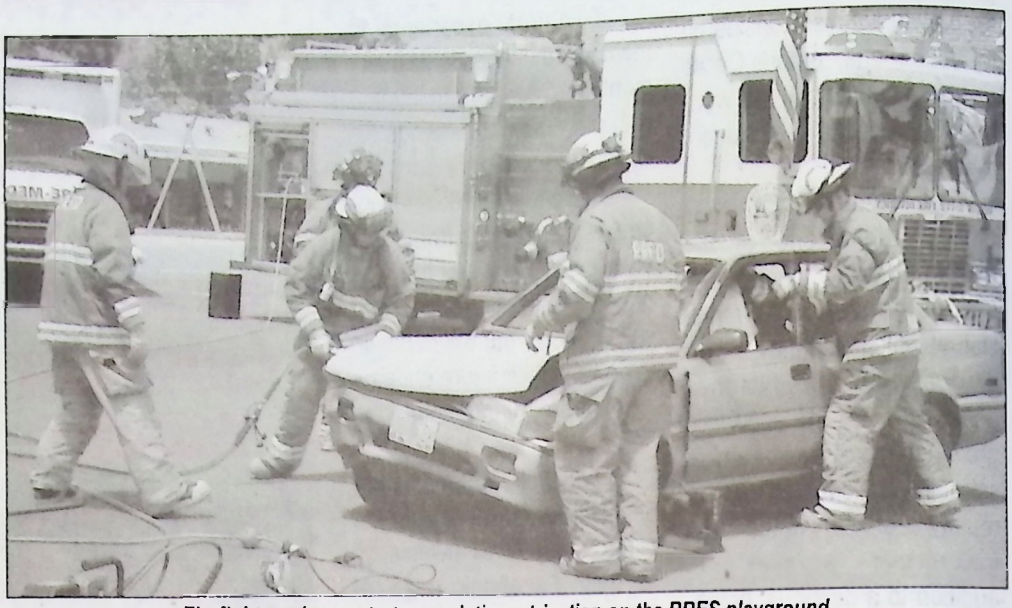
RRFD Takes Care of Hometown

Members of the Rogue River Fire District (RRFD) will spend most of the Rooster Crow celebration demonstrating their training exercises and equipment operations to a crowd gathered at Rogue River Elementary School.

"A lot of people see us as we make our medical calls," said Former Chief Ben Ramsey. "Unless something major happens in town, many don't get to see us or our gear in action."

In past year's demonstrations, the RRFD crew first set up a rope rescue demonstration. Securing a number of ropes between two trees a few hundred feet apart, one firefighter was hauled up into the air and maneuvered by other firefighters on the ground. Pulling on the ropes, they brought him into position above a firefighter playing the part of rescue victim.



Firefighters demonstrate car victim extrication on the RRES playground.

RRFD firefighter Jeff Fitzgerald, using a microphone and public address speakers, explained how the rope rescue operation would be used to rescue a hiker from a canyon or swimmers stranded in the river.

"It's something we rarely have to do," he said. "But, it's something that we have to train for and be prepared for. That's part of our job."

Next, the RRFD personnel setup an extrication scenario involving a wrecked car and the Jaws of Life.

Firefighters recruited a female volunteer from the crowd to play the victim trapped in the wrecked Saturn Firefighters in full turnout gear – almost 50 pounds of equipment – set to work on the rescue operation. Other crew members checked on the victim while others inspected the vehicle.

"You have to be careful with some vehicles," Fitzgerald said. "The air-shocks on front- and rear bumpers can explode – which turns that bumper into a deadly flying projectile. So, we have to be cautious when approaching a vehicle."

The firefighters set up the Jaws of Life and began using it to remove the damaged passenger side door. In the meantime, other firefighters saw to the "medical needs" of the victim in the car, while their partners used a power saw to remove the windshield. The firefighters moved quickly, but cautiously, always assessing the situation and considering their options.

"Our main concern is removing the victim from the car as soon as possible," Fitzgerald said. "However, we have to factor in the victim's condition and make sure she's protected from further harm."

After several minutes, the firefighters removed the young woman from the vehicle, their efforts applauded by the crowd.

"It's good for everyone, these demonstrations," Ramsey said. "It's good for the public because they get to see what we have to face some times when we have certain calls. And, it's good for the guys, since they (use the time) to train and use the gear."

Article originally published in the *Rogue River Press* on June 30, 2012.

Rope Rescue Demonstration

Old West Re-enactment Skit Theatre

Photo Courtesy: SJVC

The State of Jefferson Vigilance Committee (SJVC) is an "Old West" re-enactment group located in Southwestern Oregon. They perform skits that help educate folks on how the wild west really, or maybe "reel-y" was. Gunfighters, Saloon gals, lawmen, soiled doves, town folks, preachers, undertakers, and young'uns will entertain audiences of all ages.

The SJVC is a group of folks who compete in the sport of Cowboy Action Shooting and, since 2007. They have been helping to keep the "spirit of the old west" alive in towns in "The State of Jefferson" by creating fun re-enactments based on the "days of yore."

The SJVC stage mock gunfights, Saloon shootouts (they always capitalize "Saloon"), "bank robberies" (they supply their own "bank"), and even an occasional WEDDING (that doesn't go too well). They use actual firearms of that period, but shoot black powder BLANKS (smoke and flame, but no projectiles – they need to use their "bad guys" more than once).

Further, while engaging in these activities, re-enactors are expected to "dress the part" in the correct clothing and accoutrements of the period being depicted. It is the purpose of the SJVC to recreate and enjoy the "Old West" safely, while using the firearms of those days and while fostering awareness in people both young and old of their unique Pioneering Western Heritage.

Photo Courtesy: AF&A

Photo Courtesy: AF&A

Rooster Crow Prizes

1st Place: $150
2nd Place: $50
3rd Place: $35
Cage Prize: $15

The Rooster Crow Contest and Human Crow are FREE to enter. Prizes awarded courtesy of the Rogue River Kiwanis Club

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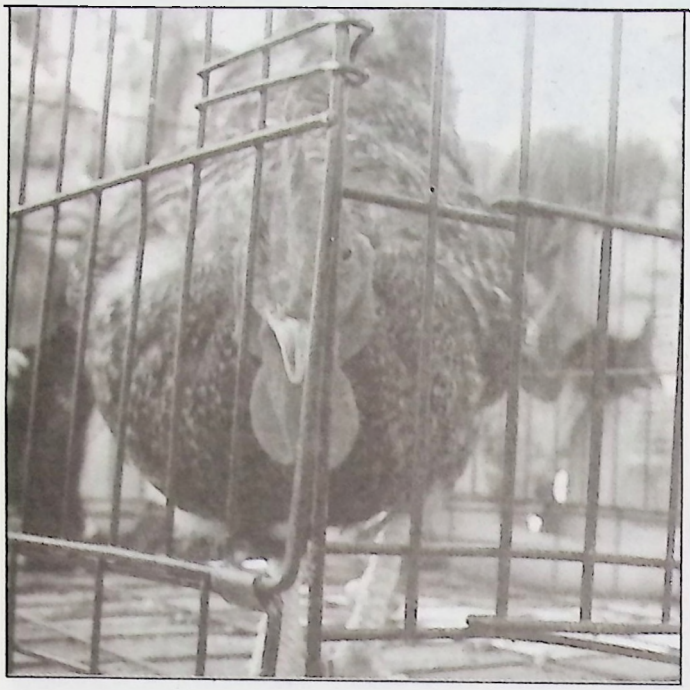

1953 Hollerin' Harry 71
1953 Beetle Baum 109
1954 Rocky 79
1955 Prince Albert 81
1956 Briggs 70
1957 Goldie 66
1958 Rusty 68
1959 Sandy 96
1960 Jerome 67
1961 Rascal 69
1962 Geronimo 63
1963 Mac-A Do 90
1964 Mac's Joe 69
1965 Black Fella 71
1966 Drum Stick 80
1967 Rinky Dink 49
1968 T-Bird 63
1969 Guber 71
1970 Rex 70
1971 Super Chicken 85
1972 Tom Dooley 73
1973 Great Speckled Bird 63
1974 Wild Bill 59
1975 Rastus 73
1976 Hamlet 57
1977 Doodle Do 62
1978 White Lightning 112
1979 Chunker 98
1980 Lewis (of Lewis & Clark) 87
1981 Crow'n Joe 82
1982 Crow'n Joe 65
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1984 Chicken Little 83
1985 Crystal's Silver Streak 61
1986 Rosebud 90
1987 Redland Red 48
1988 Will E. Crow 56
1989 Henry 74
1990 Toby 71
1991 Bart 76
1992 Garth 76
1993 Just a Rooster 96
1994 Just a Rooster 68
1995 Mr. Skinhead 69
1996 Fowl Mouth 80
1997 One Eyed Jack 31
1998 Hank 50
1999 Henry Rooster 42
2000 Love Machine 36
2001 Splash 49
2002 Warfield 46
2003 Stew M. Wright 25
2004 Trigger 42
2005 B.W. 107
2006 Winchester 30
2007 Raul 45
2008 Charles 36
2009 Fluffy 42
2010 Bye Bye Bob 63
2011 Bye Bye Bob 63
2012 George 44
2013 Lil' Lung Larry 64
2014 Ben 40
2015 Crow-Darr 52
2016 Buttercup 31
2017 Carter 45
2018 Phoenix 43
2019 ???

'Bad' Phoenix Good At 2018 Crow Contest

Brian Mortensen
Rogue River Press

On the barnyard, Phoenix is not the nicest of roosters, but in the cage before a gathering of onlookers at the Rogue River Rooster Crow Arena, he was a prince.

Phoenix, a year-old Americana rooster, was consistent and outlasted two worthy challengers to win the 65th annual National Rooster Crowing Championship on Sat., June 30, 2018.

Phoenix, and his owners Dusty and Adam Hauber and their daughters, twins Madison and Mika, and Savanah won the top prize of $150, besting 18 other roosters in the field this year.

Phoenix's two challengers, Carson, the 2017 champion belonging to Junior Carter from Berrycraig Farm in White City, and Scarlett, belonging to Adam Roveda of Wimer, finished in a tie, each with 32 crows through the half-hour, and had a five-minute crow-off. Scarlett, also an Americana, crowed eight times to Carson's five in the overtime period and won the $50, second prize.

Carson, a barred rock rooster, who crowed 45 times in winning in 2017, won $35 for third prize.

Phoenix, and his owners Dusty and Adam Hauber and their daughters, twins Madison and Mika, and Savanah won the top prize of $150, besting 18 other roosters in the field this year.

While the initial early battle was between Scarlett and Carson, both situation just feet from each other on the same makeshift table of plywood and sawhorses, Phoenix was steadily putting on a show on the south table.

He was keeping pace with the early favorites and then continued, as the others stopped crowing in the final 10 minutes. Carson had to make up a couple of crows just to create the tie for second place.

The Haubers saw the Rooster Crow in 2016, not long after they moved to the area from Minnesota -- Dusty Hauber is from the local area, while Adam is from there -- and planned to enter last year but didn't because of the triple-digit temperatures during the 2017 Crow.

"And then this year, a couple of months ago, he kept going and kept going, and the kids said he kept going, and I'm like, 'He needs to go to Rooster Crow,'" Dusty Hauber said. "I told them all, 'I'm going to go to Rooster Crow.'"

She almost didn't because she was concerned the crowd atmosphere might cause him stress.

The stress turned out to be a concern.

"Yeah, he did a pretty job today," Hauber said. "I'm proud of him."

Perhaps Phoenix has found a niche. Hauber said that he is pretty noisy out on the barnyard.

With the talent comes the flip side.

"He's not the nicest guy," she said. "He tries to attack the kids."

With Phoenix's 43, following Carter's 45 a year ago, winning roosters have crowed better than 40 times nine of the past ten years. It still doesn't come close to the record 112 of 1978 winner White Lightning, one of only three to register more than 100 in the half-hour.

HYDROPLANES from page 14

The main race will be conducted three laps from a spot about a mile downriver from the Depot Street Bridge to the I-5 Riffle, around where the Twin Bridges east of Valley of the Rogue Park are. The drivers do not continuously race.

They begin one segment with all drivers heading the same direction, stop, disembark their boats and start them again and move to the opposite landing spot.

"Guys like the (the course)," Reese said. "It's fast. The pits are great because there's plenty of parking (at Fleming Park)."

He describes the I-5 Bridge Riffle as "a monster" at which the racers have to go single-file and control their throttles and their nose to maneuver through without capsizing.

The Rooster Crow River Chase is the fifth stop on the Cal-Ore circuit. Defending three-time series champion Roger Sanderson (B200) is the clear points leader this season, having won three races.

Dereck Ely (85) is now in second in the points, followed by Michael Dickson, the 40 AR boat, and Ryan Richardson (23).

Sanderson won the Rooster Crow River Chase the last time it was conducted, in 2018, and Jesse Reinhart won in 2017 in the River Racers' return to Rogue River after taking several years off.

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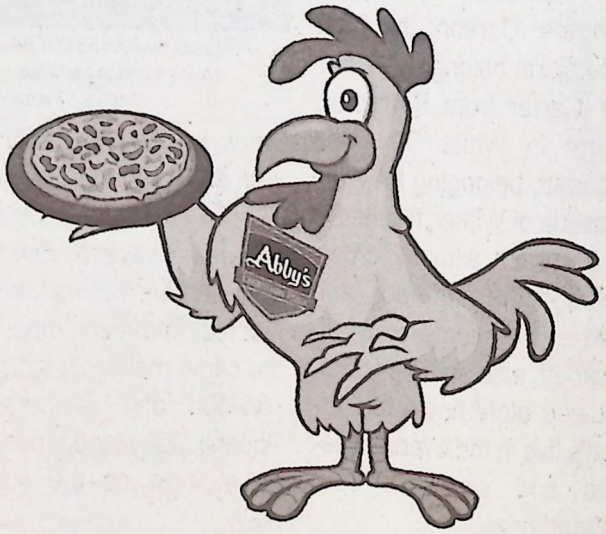

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NATIONAL ROOSTER CROW CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

On the day of the Rooster Crow, fill out an entry form. Entry forms are available at the registration booth set up at the Crowing Contest area. No prior registration will be made.

Entries will be accepted from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. At the time of registration, the roosters will be left in the Rooster Crow Arena.

There is NO ENTRY FEE.

At 2:30 p.m., the Crowing Contest gets underway as the judges to start counting the utterances of the feathered contestants. For 30 solid minutes, the crows of each rooster are recorded by their private judge. Scores are tallied and awards are made at 3:15 p.m.

Cash prizes are presented to the owners of the top three contenders.

Those wishing to participate must abide by the following rules:

1. One rooster per person.
2. The rooster must be in the cage.
3. Entrant must furnish one judge 14 years of age or older.
4. Crow tallies may be verified by Crow officials at any time.
5. No mechanical, electrical, physical, or chemical stimulants or devices will be allowed in the cage with the rooster.
6. In no case will the roosters be abused or mistreated.

Interpretation, application and enforcement of these rules are the prerogative of the Rogue River Kiwanis Club and violations may result in warning or disqualification.

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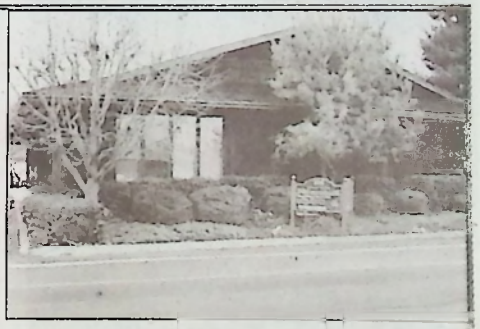

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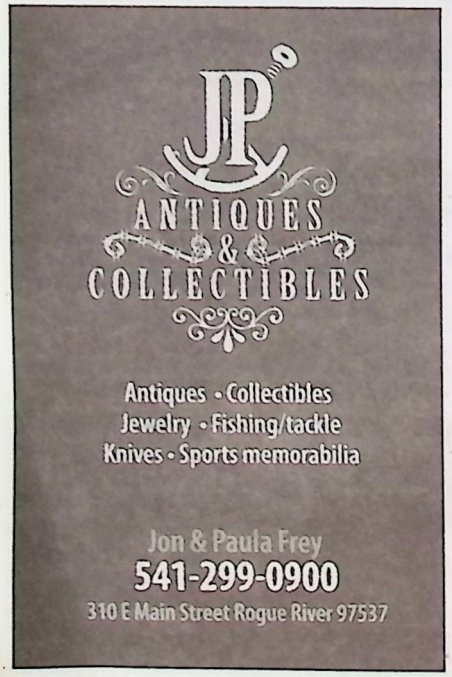
The Rules are Simple

Not much has changed since 1953, when the first National Rooster Crow Championship was held in Rogue River.



The rules are simple. Each person can enter one rooster; (registration begins at 12 noon at the Rooster Crow Arena) the rooster must remain in the cage throughout the contest. An impartial judge is assigned, and the tallying begins at 2:45 p.m. No mechanical, electrical, physical or chemical stimulants or devices are allowed. Moreover, roosters cannot be mistreated or abused.

Each rooster has 30 minutes to crow his heart out.

Never mind that most of the crowin' occurs before the official contest, when most of the roosters fall prey to the pressure.

In a contest from years past and as always, the arena is filled with roosters in their cages, some elaborately decorated, and their owners.

In 2012, two-time champion Bye-Bye Bob was present and next to his cage was Rockin' Red and his owner, six-year-old Zach Gray.

"I've had Red for about a year," Zach said. "I thought it would be fun if we tried this."

Master of Ceremonies John Bond had the area cleared except for owners and judges – a judge was assigned to each rooster and was required to keep track of each cock-a-doodle-doo crowed in 30 minutes.

When the contest started, it was overcast and sprinkling. But, soon, the sky opened up and heavy rain fell onto the roosters, dampening a bit of the enthusiasm.

Roosters clucked anxiously, and then crowed with each judge tallying.

Fillipe the Destroyer, a rooster owned by Spencer Hill and Alex

see RULES on page 20

RULES from page 26

Jameson, had been crowing constantly before the contest. However, when it was time for the real deal, Fillipe fell silent.

Then, he finally let out a single crow.

"Yes!" both men shouted. Hill was optimistic that Fillipe might still win.

"We can do this," he said.

However, when the 30 minutes was over, he would not be crowned champion crower.

George, owned by Jason and Dani Duby of Merlin, was the winner earning the $150 prize with more than 44 crows.

"I grew up in Rogue River all my life and never been to a Rooster Crow," Duby said.

"We took in George a few years ago and decided to enter the contest – I'm glad we did."

Last year's champ Bye-Bye Bob came in second with 35 crows.

Those numbers just don't compare to the likes of Beetle Baum who crowed 109 times in 1953. And, the feat (if not the beak) of White Lightening, who crowed 112 times in 1978, and B.W., 107 in 2005, seem unparalleled.

No one knows the secrets that encourage a rooster to crow, but White Lightning's owner, Willie Beck of Gold Hill, said it was simple. "I just kept him away from any other roosters or chickens for six weeks before the contest and brought him to the contest in a large sack."

However, the secret may have been in the person of Dr. Mabel Bryant who stood before his cage flapping her arms and cheering him on to spectacular achievements. According to the good doctor, "We were communicating with each other!"

Was she the inspiration for the Human National Crowing Championship that began 18 years ago?

No Rooster? No Problem...

Humans Crow, Too!!

The National Human Crow Championship shares the spotlight with the Rooster Crow on Saturday, June 29. The event began as a great way to rev up the crowd for the big event.

Each year, the Human Crow continues to grow in popularity as children of all ages give their best crow for the microphone.

Winners are selected based on crowd response.

There is no entry fee for the Human Crow, just bring your best voice and let 'er rip.

Kick-off Dinner

At the the annual dinner, the Mayor will read the Rooster Crow Proclamation and officially begin the Rooster Crow festivities.

At the annual Rooster Crow "kick-off" dinner, to be held this year on June 28 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Rogue River Community Center, roosters are given permission by Rogue River's Mayor to "strut their stuff" during the National Rooster Crow Festival.

And, the "finely clad" fowl are allowed to display their plumage and "crow to their heart's content without fear of retribution" – meaning the mayor will grant the poultry a 24-hour amnesty.

The roosters (or hens) in the 24 hours preceding Friday night's are not so lucky; a barbecued chicken dinner is the main course!

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Big Turnout for Human Crow

Brian Mortensen
Rogue River Press

The Human Crowing Contest has always been a popular piece of the Rooster Crow celebration, but it might never before have had the participation it had as the opener for the Rooster Crowing National Championships on Sat., June 30, 2018.

Some 19 people were in the first round of the all-comers competition, with audience participation whittling the field down to a top seven.

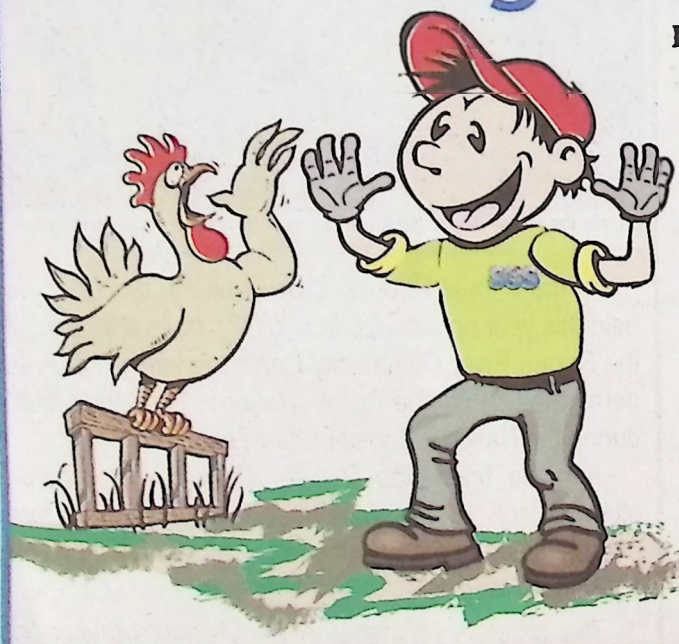
The final seven included several strong and loud crowers, but the winner was Melissa Krehbiel of Grants Pass, outlasting Leah Castagna of Rogue River and Jonathan Gehrig of Phoenix.

Krehbiel found out about the Human Crowing contest through Ryan Hess, a member of the Rooster Crow committee, and now Mayor of Rogue River.

"Ryan works where I work (at Brookdale Senior Living in Grants Pass). He's the sales and marketer, and he said there are not as many roosters, but a lot of human crowers, and he said in our meeting, 'Anybody, if you have that talent,'" she said. "And I kind of shook my head and raised my hand.

see HUMAN CROW on page 29

Something To Crow About!



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HUMAN CROW from page 28

"He was a little bit surprised, but I said, 'I've actually been crowing for a while.' I just love chickens, and our grandfather had a farm. My grandpa had chickens, and I would try to go out and try to get them to lay eggs, so I would crow. I was about six."

This would continue, though, as Krehbiel became an adult.

"As I grew older, we would go to the fair. My poor husband, he would know what was coming," she said. "We would walk through the (4-H poultry building), and we would go in the evening time when all the chickens are all nestled and quiet, and I would crow really loudly to see if I could get them to..."

The 2018 top three in the Human Crow were third-placer Jonathan Gehrig of Phoenix, left, and runner-up Leah Castagno of Rogue River, right,with champion Melissa Krehbiel of Grants Pass.

Her husband, Dominic Haag, confirmed this.

"Yes, they would. They would go nuts."

Krehbiel said she practiced crowing with her grandson, who also participated in the kids' crowing contest.

Rogue River City Recorder Carol Weir said the turnout for the kids' version of the Human Crowing Contest was the most she'd ever seen.

"The girls (Miss Rogue River queen and princesses) each had 20 tickets," she said, referring to the tickets each kid gets for crowing, good for one ice cream cone.

"The girls all ran out of tickets," she said. Fortunately, a whole wheel of tickets is available, and no one went without ice cream.

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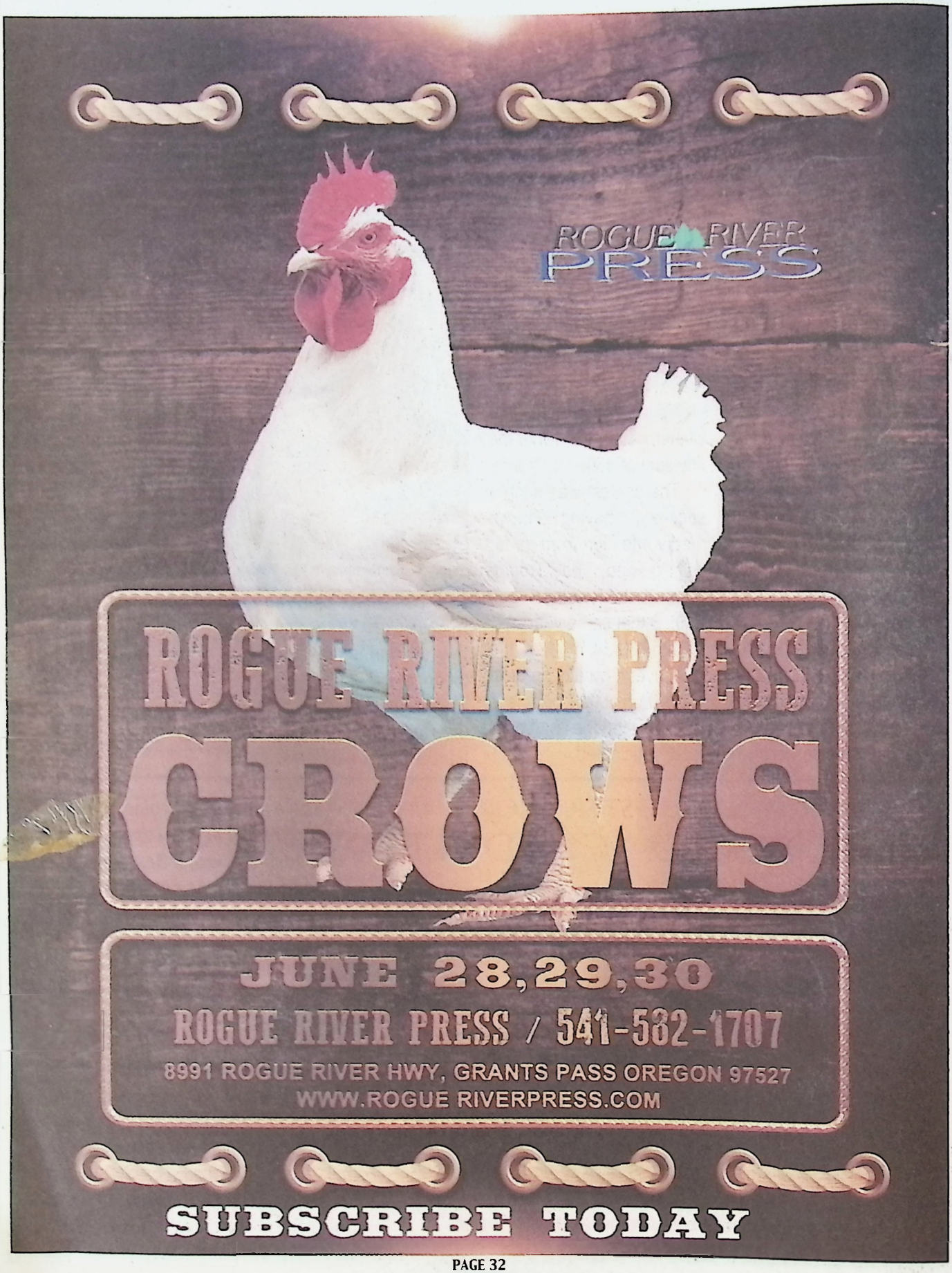
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